

Message Text

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46

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 ABF-01 MMS-04 PER-05 M-02 SP-03

DRC-01 RSC-01 /045 W

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P 121728Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3176

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USIAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

USIA FOR INA; STATE FOR AFN

REF: A. BEHRENS-THOMPSON TELECON

B. RABAT 4323 #

1. POST REQUESTS AGENCY GUIDANCE RE MOROCCAN PROGRAM REDUCTIONS ANNOUNCED IOA/B GOING RATE MESSAGE AUGUST 14 AND ADVICE OF ALLOTMENT DATED AUGUST 13. THESE LEGAL DOCUMENTS ORDERED 18 PERCENT REDUCTION PROGRAM FUNDS, 26.5 PERCENT REDUCTION LOCAL PERSONNEL, AND 18 PERCENT REDUCTION AMERICAN STAFF. OUR PREVIOUS DISCUSSION WITH INA HAD CENTERED ON CLOSURE USIS FEZ AND TANGIER AND OTHER PERSONNEL CUTS TOTALING SAME NUMBERS IN MESSAGES.

2. ABOVE TOOK PLACE DESPITE POSITIVE DECISION BY DIRECTOR KEOGH DATED JULY 11 IN RESPONSE RECOMMENDATION IN INSPECTION REPORT ON USIS MOROCCO THAT PRESENT PREVIOUS PERSONNEL CEILINGS BE MAINTAINED. POST WAS ALSO STILL AWAITING ANSWER LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR OF AUGUST 7 REQUESTING RECONSIDERATION PLAN THEN DISCUSSION PHASE TO CLOSE FEZ.

3. IN VIEW SEVERITY CUTS, LATE DATE NOTICE IN FISCAL YEAR,
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LEGAL OBLIGATION GIVE NOTICE TO EMPLOYEES AND LESSORS, AND

PREVIOUS INA DISCUSSION CLOSURE USIS FEZ AND TANGIER, POST IN
ABSENCE FURTHER AREA GUIDANCE TOOK IOA NOTICE AS DEFINITIVE
AND PROCEEDED IMPLEMENT ASSUMED INA DECISION DURING AMBASSADOR'S
ABSENCE. ANY DELAY IN SUCH IMPLEMENTATION WOULD HAVE FURTHER
AMPLIFIED ALREADY CATASTROPHIC EFFECTS OF CUTS ON TOTAL
MOROCCAN PROGRAM. AMBASSADOR HAS SINCE RETURNED AND, WHILE IN
AGREEMENT EMERGENCY ACTION TAKEN HERE AS INTERIM MEASURE,
STRONGLY MAINTAINS VIEW EXPRESSED HIS LETTER AND AWAITS
ANSWER RE LONGER TERM USIS MOROCCAN PROGRAM CONFIGURATION.

4. REF TELECON IMPLIED QUESTION FEZ STILL OPEN AND MANIFESTED
UNAWARENESS MAGNITUDE PROGRAM CUTS. IF EFFECTIVE BRANCH POST
IS TO BE MAINTAINED IN FEZ, SUBSTANTIAL RESTORATION LOCAL
POSITIONS AND PROGRAM FUNDS IMPERATIVE SUPPORT AN AMERICAN
OFFICER THERE. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST.
BEHRENS

NOTE BY OC/T: RABAT 4323 SECSTATE NOT ADDEE

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Review Exemptions: n/a
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